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ian tribes; when one realizes that much of the most creditable work of the American occupation is due to his knowledge of conditions and his trained judgment; then the reviewer feels sure that the tribute which Mr. Blount ascribes to President Taft, that Dean C. Worcester is "the most valuable man we have on the Philippine Commission" will be accepted as a more accurate appraisal than Mr. Blount's remarkable chapter.

With these statements concerning the matter and the manner of Mr. Blount's work, the reviewer would leave the opinions advanced by the author without comment. He agrees with Mr. Blount that a congressional statement regarding our ultimate aims in the islands should be made. He looks forward to an independent or a self-governing state there, but Mr. Blount's arguments have not convinced him of the preparedness of the Filipino peoples for self-government now or within eight years.

PAYSON J. TREAT.

Facts of Reconstruction. By MAJOR JOHN R. LYNCH. New York: The Neale Publishing Co. 1913.

Facts of Reconstruction, a book written by Major John R. Lynch, has just been issued from the press of the Neale Publishing Company of New York. Major Lynch is peculiarly well fitted to write authoritatively of Southern reconstruction. During this pivotal period he served three terms in Congress from Mississippi, a state in which the colored citizen attained his highest political eminence. Subsequently he was fourth auditor of the treasury at Washington, and is now a retired major of the regular United States Army, and for forty years has been recognized and accepted as Southern political leader of national fame and reputation.

This book is perhaps the best contribution which has been made by any writer during recent years to the political literature of the reconstruction era. Only in two states of the South does the colored population exceed that of the white—South Carolina and Mississippi. As the colored citizen acquired the greatest political distinction in Mississippi, the actual facts of the colored citizen's part in government in this state during reconstruction times, ought to give the key to the understanding of the whole Southern political situation. The book has a vital bearing upon the most urgent and pressing political problems of the South and the nation. Its chief merits lie in its intimate familiarity with the general and inside history of the country, and especially Mississippi and the

South, during the past forty odd years. Written in a lucid and conservative style, it contains a wealth of facts, which if read and understood by the country, would do much to adjust the present abnormal political situation in the South, and to correct many of the false and erroneous opinions, accepted throughout the nation concerning the Negro and the South.

In an interesting, instructive and illuminating manner, *Facts of Reconstruction*, not only answers the questions: Were the Southern reconstructed state governments a failure? Was the influence of the colored citizen in reconstruction injurious? Was the fifteenth amendment to the national Constitution premature and unwise? And was there any rational basis for the fear of "negro domination?", but it sets forth impartially and logically that group of facts which led so rapidly to the political decadence of the South, with all of its solid political opposition to a surrendering North. In connection with the above questions, the book is enhanced with a history of the different policies of reconstruction, the election and the influence of the surrender of Hayes, the causes for the defeats of Blaine, the reason for the failure of the civil rights bill, and the character of the numerous interviews of the author with such distinguished men as Presidents Grant and Cleveland and Messrs. Blaine, Lamar and Gresham, upon the important questions of the day.

But if the book had done nothing else than to show that in Mississippi, where the colored population exceeds the white and where the colored citizen reached highest in political power, the colored people had at no time more than 34 out of 140 members of the legislature, and participated in those reconstructed state governments which put Southern states in harmony with the national Constitution, repaired and rebuilt the public buildings and institutions devastated by war, and planned and organized the present Southern common school system—white and black alike—it would deserve a place in every library of the land.

GEORGE W. ELLIS.

In Freedom's Birthplace. By JOHN DANIELS. Boston: Houghton Mufflin Co. 1913. 496 p. $1.50.

In Freedom's Birthplace, John Daniels has presented to the public a searching and authoritative social study of the negro in Boston. The author brought to this important work the spirit of the investigator seeking the truth, and the scientific method of the student and the scholar. This book is the result of nine years study and